

Orange Factory Village, House No. 12
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 F

HABS
NC,
32-ORFA,
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 12

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Location:

Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 12)
USCS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner:

Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant:

Demolished, summer 1984

Significance:

The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HA No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two story, three-bay wide frame house is original. Remaining windows and doors retain their simple Creek revival trim.
4. Alterations and additions: One-story shed roof porch added about 1916; replacement ironwork posts, cinderblock foundation and German siding probably added later. Porch cuts into first story windows, so they are only 6/6 sash instead of 9/6. Two of the three second story windows are now closed in. Replacement brick Chimney on right side of house. Shed room additions across rear of house.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 12)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of fabric: The overall condition of the building materials were fair to good. The existence of acoustic tile ceilings suggested that ceiling plaster and/or leak problems may have existed in the past.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The house measurements were 40'-5-3/4" x 20'-0-1/4". In addition, at both ends of the house were porches measuring 18'-6-1/2" x 8'-0" and 10'-0" x 7'-0".
2. Foundations: Brick piers with rubble stone infill support the main and middle sections of the house. The rear addition is supported with heavy timber posts at the corners and rubble stone infill. The foundation of the front porch is concrete block masonry.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of the house are sheathed in wood, horizontal clapboards. The front or main section of the house has beaded siding on the west elevation and plain clapboards on the north and east elevations, all with 5" exposures. The mid-section has 5" exposure, plain clapboards. And the rear addition has beaded, 7" exposure horizontal clapboards on the south, east, and west elevations. All corners are trimmed with flat, double corner boards.
4. Structural system, framing: The interior and exterior walls were constructed with wood studs which supported wood floor joists, neither of which were accessible. The roof system consisted of wood rafters (exposed external to the house at the eaves).
5. Porches: The front porch (north elevation) is constructed of a concrete slab floor on concrete block foundations raised four (4) steps above grade. A simple shed roof which

runs the full width of the house is supported by four, steel trellis posts. The porch is open without railings. A wood framed, post and rail porch with wood stair and rail at grade is attached to the rear (south elevation) of the house.

6. Chimneys: A narrow brick chimney adjoining the west end elevation is located at the gable of the two story section of the house and originally served the fireplace in the parlor. A second brick chimney extends a few feet above the rear wing roof and is capped with a metal ventilator hood. Presently abandoned, it is assumed that this chimney served an earlier wood stove.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The primary entrance is a six (6) light over two (2) elongated vertical panel door with a flatboard, simple architrave. The rear door is a six (6) light over three (3) horizontal panel door with a simple flat board architrave.
 - b. Windows: The windows on the main two (2) story section of the house has six over six double hung sash windows with fluted architraves with corner blocks. (Two windows on the second floor of the north elevation were removed and infilled with clapboarding). The remainder of the windows are simple six over six double hung sash with simple flat board architraves. The only exception is a pair of four (4) light sliders with simple flat board architrave, located on the east elevation of the rear wing.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The main, two story section of the house has a simple gable clad with corrugated, galvanized tin metal roofing. The rear, one story portion of the house has a long, shallow shed roof clad with corrugated, galvanized tin metal roofing.
 - b. Cornice: A single flat board applied to the overhanging rafter tails and barge boards forms a simple cornice.
 - c. Dormers, towers: None.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: The house is built over the natural grade which slopes from the front to rear of the house creating a low crawl space in the front and a high crawl space in the rear.
- b. First floor: The front door, centered on the north elevation opens into the corner of a large parlor with a mantel piece on the outside wall. To the east of the parlor is a smaller room which contains an open staircase leading to the second floor. From the parlor a doorway leads into a rear parlor next to which is a dining room. Beyond these rooms are a kitchen, a hallway which leads to the exterior, and a full bathroom.
- c. Second floor: The second floor (above the two front rooms) consists of one large room.
- d. Attic: The attic space was inaccessible.

2. Stairway: A single, open stair with wood treads and risers and a simple wood handrail comes down from the second floor along an outside wall to an intermediate landing. The run of stairs turns along an intersecting wall and continues three (3) risers to the first floor.
3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the building was painted, tongue and groove, pine flooring.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: The walls of the house and the second floor ceiling were painted plaster. The ceilings of the first floor were painted plaster and were covered with acoustical tile.
5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors were solid, six (6) horizontal paneled wood doors with simple wood board architraves.
6. Decorative features: The decorative features consisted of an applied mantel and surround which were applied to the plaster wall of the front parlor. The mantel and surround were made of single, flat boards, and diagonally cut braces without detail or decorative workings.

7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation through open windows.

b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.

c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: House Number 12 is sited on land which slopes gradually from north to south. The house is at right angles to and faces an east-west, unnamed dirt road which intersects with Old Orange Factory Road.

2. Out buildings: A few feet to the east of the building is a prefabricated mobile home. The mobile home is parallel to House No. 12.

3. Landscaping: The landscaping consisted of a large tree on either side of the house and a few shrubs along the west side of the house which grew in an open, grass lawn.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.